DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 468 323 EC 309 161

AUTHOR	Blacher, Jan, Ed.; Baker, Bruce L., Ed.
TITLE	Families and Mental Retardation: A Collection of Notable AAMR Journal Articles across the 20th Century.
INSTITUTION	American Association on Mental Retardation, Washington, DC.
ISBN	ISBN-0-940898-76-4
PUB DATE	2002-00-00
NOTE	382p.
AVAILABLE FROM	American Association on Mental Retardation, 444 North Capitol St. NW, Suite 846, Washington, DC 20001-1512 (AAMR members $50.95; Non-Members $59.95). Web site: http://www.aamr.org.
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - Serials (022) -- Reports - Research (143)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adult Children; Adults; Children; *Coping; *Emotional Adjustment; Family Environment; Family Needs; *Family Problems; History; Intervention; *Mental Retardation; Parents with Disabilities; *Public Policy; *Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	*American Association on Mental Retardation

ABSTRACT

This volume brings together 32 papers on families and mental retardation. The papers were first published in journals of the American Association on Mental Retardation and date from 1935 through 1999. The papers are divided into four units within which the papers are presented chronologically. Essays introduce each unit. The first unit, "Historical Views of Families," consists of three papers, all from the 1930s. Second is "Family Adjustment and Coping" (11 papers), which focuses on families of children and adolescents with mental retardation and contains the traditional core of family studies: family reactions to disability, stress, adaptation and coping, social support, and recent broader conceptions of family. The third unit is "Families of Adults with Mental Retardation" (eight papers), a more recent focus of family researchers examining transition to adulthood, older adults, and adults with mental retardation as parents themselves. This is followed by "Family Intervention, Support, and Social Policy" (10 papers), which covers a range of approaches to supporting families, from individual counseling to social policy. A concluding essay, "Looking Ahead," considers the effects on families of the Internet, scientific advances (particularly psychopharmacology), and residential services. (Individual papers and the essays contain references.) (DB)

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